

LOS ANGELES MISSION COLLEGE

Political Science 1: AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Spring 2020

Instructor: Dr. Durukan

Days: TTh 10:35 am- 12:00 pm.

Section: 15336

Location: Room 1001

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Office Hours: MW: 10am-12 pm; TTh: 7:50-8:50 and 12pm-12:30pm

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Add Deadline: Feb.23

Drop Deadlines: Feb.23 (w/o penalty); May 10 (w/W)

Course Description and Objectives:

The primary objective of this class is to introduce students to the basic concepts and ideas of the American political system, showing the extent to which politics and the government are significant parts of our daily lives. In order to realize this goal, we will explore how American government was established, the ideology behind this establishment, and the meaning of the American constitution. Analysis of American government branches (the executive, legislative, and the judiciary), in addition to political participation, interest groups, and the media will also take place. Finally, an exploration of the American political system as compared to other countries will help us define what the proper worldview of the American political system ought to be.

Course Materials:

There is only one required book for the course which can be purchased at the Mission College Bookstore:

[American Government and Politics Today: Essentials 2018-2018 Edition by Bardes, Shelley, Schmidt](#)

Students are also expected to follow current events. Ways to do so include following a daily newspaper, for instance the Los Angeles Times, a weekly news magazine, like Time or Newsweek; watching a TV news program covering domestic political news such as "News Hour" on PBS ; and

finally, listening to public radio on 89.3 or 89.9FM. You can also have access to most of these papers, magazines, and news programs on the internet.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend the class regularly and also participate in discussions. I reserve the right to drop you from the course in the case of excessive absence.

Cheating- unauthorized material used during an examination (including electronic devices), changing answers after work has been graded, taking an exam for another student, forging or altering attendance sheets or other documents in the course, looking at another student's paper/scantron/essay/computer or exam with or without their approval is considered cheating. Any student caught cheating will receive a zero for the assignment/exam and referred to the Department chair and/or Student Services for further disciplinary action.

Plagiarism- Plagiarism is defined as the act of using ideas, words, or work of another person or persons as if they were one's own, without giving proper credit to the original sources. This includes definitions found online on Wikipedia, materials from blogs, twitter, or other similar electronic resources. The following examples are intended to be representative, but not all inclusive:

- failing to give credit by proper citations for others ideas and concepts, data and information, statements and phrases, and/or interpretations and conclusions.
- failing to use quotation marks when quoting directly from another, whether it be a paragraph, a sentence, or a part thereof
- Paraphrasing the expressions or thought by others without appropriate quotation marks or attribution
- Representing another's artistic/scholarly works such as essays, computer programs, photographs, paintings, drawings, sculptures or similar works as one's own.

First offense, you will receive a zero for the assignment in question. Any further offenses may result in expulsion from the class, as determined by the disciplinary action from the Office of Student Services.

Recording devices in the classroom- Section 78907 of the California Education Code prohibits the use of any electronic audio or video recording devices, without prior consent of the instructor. (including cell phones, laptops, MP3 players, and more)

Reasonable Accommodations: If you are a student with a disability and require accommodations, please send me a private email. The sooner I am aware of your eligibility for accommodations, the quicker I will be able to assist the DSP&S Office in providing them.

Course Requirements:

Readings and Exams

Students should come to class prepared, which means all the assigned readings must be completed before the class.

There will be three tests and a final exam. Each test is worth of 200 points and final is worth of 250 points. Only the best two test scores will be counted towards your class grade. The exams will be made up of multiple choice questions. Make up exams will be given only if there is an emergency. Should an emergency arise, students should e-mail prior to the exam. Just not showing up at the exam day is not acceptable.

Policy Prescription Paper and Presentation

A ten-page team solution paper is to be written and presented by groups of.... More information will be provided later during the semester. All the papers are due on_____. Presentations of these papers will be given on_____. Before the presentation, each team should provide a one-page paper with the names of the group members, the topic, and an outline of the presentation.

Performance Evaluation:

Grades are based on the following:

Tests : 200 points each (400 total)

Final Exam : 250 points

Group Paper : 300 points

Participation & Attendance: 50 points

Total : 1000 points

A : 1000-900 points (Outstanding work)

B : 899- 800 points (Above average)

C : 799- 700 points (Average work, meets basic requirements)

D : 699-600 points (Below average, but passing)

F : 599-0 points (Unsatisfactory, fails to meet basic requirements)

Very Important Rule!

Grades will not be affected by the political views or comments of the students. To show respect for your fellow students' beliefs, views, and ideas is the number one priority!

Lecture Schedule

Feb.11, t	Introduction
Feb. 13 , th	What is Politics? What is Government? How Does Government Affect Us On a Daily Basis? (Ch. 1)
Feb. 18, t	Different Types of Government (Ch. 1)
Feb. 20, th	The Constitution (Ch. 2)
Feb. 25, t	Federalism (Ch. 3)
Feb.27, th	Civil Liberties (Ch. 4)
March 3, t	Civil Rights (Ch. 5)
March 5, th	Test # 1
March 10, t	The Congress (Ch. 10)
March 12, th	The Congress
March 17, t	Paper Workshop

March 19, th	The Presidency (Ch. 12)
March 24, t	The Presidency
March 26, th	The Courts (Ch. 13)
March 26, t	Test # 2
April 2	
April 6-13	Spring Break
April 14, t	Public Opinion and Political Socialization (Ch. 6)
April 16, th	Interest Groups (Ch. 7)
April 21, t	Political Parties (Ch. 8)
April 23, th	Political Parties Simulation
April 28, t	Campaigns and Elections (Ch. 9)
April 30, th	Campaigns
May 5, t	Media & Politics (Ch. 9)
May 7, th	Test # 3
May 9, th	Paper Workshop
May 12, t	Foreign Policy (Ch. 15)

May 14, th	California Politics
May 19, t	Student Presentations
May 21, th	Student Presentations
May 26, t	Student Presentations
June 4, th @ 10:00 am	FINAL

At the end of the semester you will

1. Describe the powers, roles, functions, and limitations of the duties of Federal, state, and local governments and the impact on individuals.
2. Analyze current American domestic and foreign policies and be able to put them into a historical perspective
3. Differentiate initiatives, referendums and recalls in California Constitution and laws.